



## II. SUPPLY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

### **A. *Land and Water Recreation Resources in Maine***

Maine's 20.4 million acres offer a diverse natural environment that supports a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities for residents and visitors. The state's 5000-mile coast includes miles of sandy beach and rocky headlands, as well as over 3000 islands. In northern and western Maine, the Longfellow Range of the Appalachian Mountains contains more than 100 mountains over 3000 feet, and all of the state's "4000 footers." Maine's inland waters total nearly 1,450 square miles in area and include about 5800 lakes and ponds and almost 32,000 miles of rivers and streams. Maine also has about 5 million acres of wetlands ranging from small vernal pools to extensive coastal salt marshes. About 90% of the state's land area is forested.

### **B. *Summary of Public Recreation Lands***

There are 1,285,266 acres of public conservation and recreation land in Maine, or 6% of the state's total acreage, including land held in fee and easements by federal, state, county, and local government agencies. This is a 10% increase over the 1,163,992 acres of recreation land reported in the 1993 SCORP. More detailed comparisons with the 1993 figures are not possible because conservation easements were not consistently included in earlier totals.

<b>Table 4 Public Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 1993-2002</b>				
Owner	Acres		Change	
	1993	2002	#	%
Total	1,163,992	1,285,266	121,344	10%

Most public conservation and recreation lands are held by the state (75%), with federal land accounting for 15% and municipal and school lands accounting for 10%. Ninety four percent (94%) of the acreage is owned in fee, while 6% is held as conservation easements.

<b>Table 5</b> <b>Public Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 2002</b> <b>(Acres)</b>					
	Fee	Easement	Other	Total	%
Federal	179,266	16,700	0	195,966	15%
State	897,653	65,224	3,000	965,877	75%
County	56	0	0	56	0%
Municipal and School	123,331	36	0	123,367	10%
Total	1,200,306	81,960	3,000	1,285,266	100%
%	94%	6%	0%	100%	

In addition to the publicly held conservation and recreation lands, 1,352,542 acres are held by national, state, regional, and local nonprofit conservation organizations or land trusts. Over three quarters of this land is held as conservation easements. When combined, public and private-nonprofit conservation and recreation land in Maine totaled 2.6 million acres in 2002, or 13% of the state land area.

<b>Table 6</b> <b>Land Trust Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 2002 (Acres)</b>				
	Fee	Easement	Other	Total
Land Trusts	306,338	1,046,204	0	1,352,542
%	23%	77%	0%	100%

## 1. Federal Recreation Lands in Maine

Most federal recreation lands in Maine are administered by three agencies: the US Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS); and the US Department of Agriculture's National Forest Service (NFS). Federal military and veterans' agencies also administer some lands available for public recreation. The principal federal recreation lands in Maine are Acadia National Park (46,784 acres); the Evans Notch District of the White Mountain National Forest (49,166 acres); and the National Wildlife Refuges (58,100 acres). These account for most of the federal recreation land in the state.

<b>Table 7</b> <b>Federal Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 2002 (Acres)</b>			
Federal Agency	Fee	Easement	Total
National Park Service	69,062	10,776	79,838
U.S. Forest Service	52,850	5,250	58,100
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	57,354	674	58,028
Total	179,266	16,700	195,966

Important changes in federal conservation and recreation lands in Maine since the 1993 SCORP include:

- the addition of 1,494 acres around Saddleback Mountain in Rangeley to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;
- the addition of 6,200 acres to the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, in New Hampshire and Maine;
- the creation of the 4655 acre Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge at the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone; and
- the 2002 closing of the Winter Harbor Naval Station and the return of 97 acres at Schoodic Point to Acadia National Park and the transfer of over 400 acres of wetlands in Corea to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## 2. State Recreation Lands

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the state-held conservation and recreation lands are administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands as Public Reserved lands and nonreserved public lands; state parks and historic sites and other park lands; the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Penobscot River Corridor; public boating facilities; and multiple use rail trails. Baxter State Park, administered separately, is Maine's largest park and alone accounts for 21% of the state conservation and recreation lands. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife administers wildlife management areas, fish hatcheries; and boat access facilities and holds 10% of the state conservation and recreation lands.

<b>Table 8</b>				
<b>State Conservation and Recreation Lands in Maine 2002 (Acres)</b>				
State Agency	Fee	Easement	Other	Total
Dept Conservation-Parks & Lands	606,128	55,404	0	661,532
Dept Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	81,648	8,979	3,000	93,627
Baxter State Park	205,228	0	0	205,228
Dept Agriculture	0	840	0	840
Dept Transportation (Rest Areas & related)	370	1	0	371
University of Maine (Sch Forest & Wildlife Ref)	4,247	0	0	4247
Dept Admin & Finan Serv (Capital Park)	21	0	0	21
State Planning (CZM Boat Access Sites)	11	0	0	11
Total	897,653	65,224	3,000	965,877

With over 371,000 acres, Piscataquis County has the largest proportion of Maine's conservation and recreation acreage, and most of this is located in Baxter State Park. State lands in Maine's most rural counties - Piscataquis, Aroostook, Somerset, Oxford, Hancock, Franklin, and Washington- account for 88% of the state-held conservation and recreation lands.

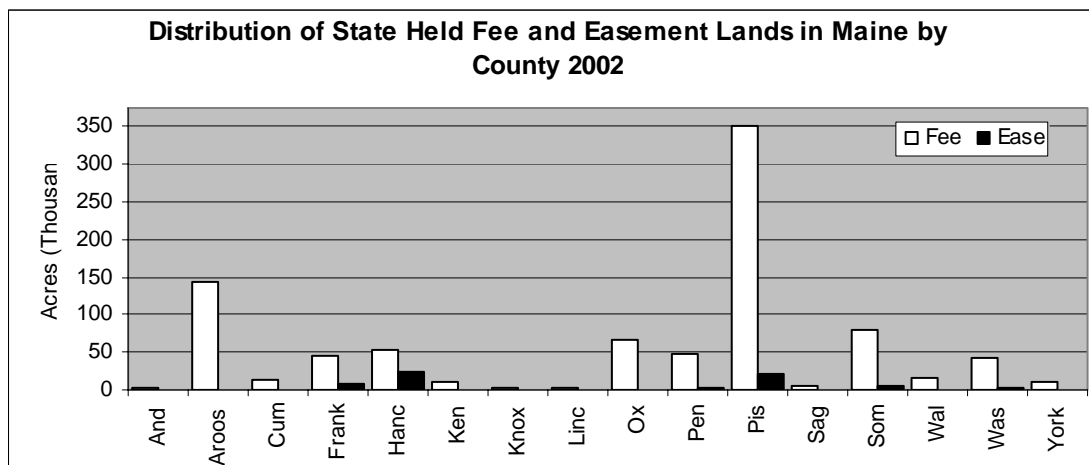


Figure 11

Important changes in state conservation and recreation lands from 1993 to 2002 include:

- the increase in state and federal dollars available for acquisition from federal and state sources, including: federal Land and Water, Recreational Trail, Transportation Enhancement and Forest Legacy funds and state Land for Maine's Future and Maine Outdoor Heritage funds;
- the increase conservation easements, including the addition of 37,673 easement acres to the Bureau of Parks and Lands land base;
- the formation of public-private partnerships to conserve land and water resources and bring them into the public domain;
- the addition of over 8,851 acres to the state park system including expansions of Mount Blue, Camden Hills, Bradbury Mountain, Rangeley Lake, Range Ponds, Aroostook, and Scarborough Beach state parks; Androscoggin River lands and the Penobscot River Corridor; and the creation of a new fee corridor along US side of the St Croix River;
- the addition of over 76,196 acres to Public Reserved and nonreserved lands, including 34,854 acres of conservation easements and 36,007 acres in fee lands.

<b>Table 9</b> <b>Maine Department of Conservation</b> <b>Bureau of Parks and Lands Land Transactions 1995-2003</b> <b>Acres</b>				
	Fee	Easement	Other	Total
Parks Division	7793	2798.8	10	10601.8
Lands Division	36007.3	34854	5334.7	76196
Total	43800.3	37652.8	5344.7	86797.8

A new classification of state lands emerged in 2001 with the designation of 13 ecological reserves totaling 68,974 acres on Public Reserved lands. The reserves will protect one or more natural ecosystems that are relatively undisturbed, and retain plant and animal communities native to Maine in their

natural condition; and they will serve as benchmarks for comparison with managed lands, maintain habitats, and provide opportunities for education, monitoring and research. The Legislature authorized the establishment of ecological reserves with the provision that traditional uses including hiking, hunting and fishing continue. Use of existing snowmobile and ATV trails may continue if impacts to the ecological values are minimal. In 2002, two new reserves were added to the system on newly acquired lands on Mt Abraham (4033 acres) and Big Spencer Mountain (approximately 4200 acres). The Maine Natural Areas Program, working with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the state's scientific community, is establishing a monitoring plan.

<b>Table 10</b>			
<b>Maine Ecological Reserves on Public Reserved Lands 2002</b>			
Name	Minor Civil Division	County	Acres
Bigelow Preserve ER	Dead Riv, Wyman, & Bigelow Twps	Fran, Som	10,540
Cutler-Whiting ER	Cutler, Whiting	Was	5,216
Deboullie ER	T15 R9 WELS	Aroos	7,253
Donnell Pond ER	T9 & T10 SD	Han	1,940
Duck Lake Unit ER	T41MD, T42 MD BPP, T4 ND	Han, Was	3,870
Gero Island ER	T5 R13 WELS	Pis	3,175
Great Heath ER	T18 MD BPP	Was	5,681
Lock Dam ER	T7 & T8 R12, T7 & T8 R13 WELS	Pis	2,890
Mahoosucs Unit ER	Riley & Grafton Twps	Ox	9,947
Nahamakanta ER	T1 & T2 R11 WELS	Pis	11,082
Rocky Lake Unit ER	T18 ED BPP	Was	1,516
Salmon Brook Lake ER	Perham	Aroos	1,053
Tunk Lake ER	T10 SD	Han	4,010
Wassataquoik Unit ER	T3 R7 WELS	Pen	775
Mount Abraham ER	Mt Abram & Salem Twps	Fran	4,033
Big Spencer Mtn ER	T2R13 WELS, TX R14 WELS	Pis	4,200
Total			77,181

### 3. Municipal and School Recreation Lands

Municipal and local school system property represented only 10% of Maine's conservation and recreation lands in 2002. Of the 120,242 acres reported, 94% were municipal lands ranging from urban mini-parks to town forests, and 6% were local school-administered lands.

<b>Table 11</b>			
<b>Municipal and School Conservation and Recreation Lands 2002 (Acres)</b>			
	Fee	Eas	Total
Municipal Recreation Lands	112,323	36	112,359
Local School System School Lands	7,883	0	7,883
	120,206	36	120,242

The most important changes in the supply of local conservation and recreation lands is the expanding role of local and regional land trusts in providing conserved lands with public access - described below, and in the recently-gained eligibility of both municipalities and land trusts to acquire lands with Land for Maine's Future funds. With improved access to funding, municipalities may acquire more lands in the future.

## **C. Private Lands Available to the Public**

### **1. Private Non-Profit Lands**

Conservation and recreation lands held by conservation organizations and land trusts totaled 1,352,542 acres in 2002, a 258% increase over the 52,339 acres reported held by this sector in 1993. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of this land is held as conservation easements. Statewide and nationally affiliated organizations hold 96% of the acreage, with the largest proportion consisting of working forest easements primarily in northern Maine held by the New England Forestry Foundation and the Forest Society of Maine. The Nature Conservancy holds nearly 500,000 acres in fee and easements. Local land trusts hold nearly 56,000 acres around the state. Traditional forest recreation activities like

<b>Table 12</b>			
<b>Private Conservation Organization and Land Trust Lands in Maine 2002</b>			
<b>(Acres)</b>			
Land Trust/Organization	Fee	Ease	Total
Statewide Organizations/Trusts	282,790	1,013,958	1,296,748
Local Trusts	23,548	32,246	55,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>306,338</b>	<b>1,046,204</b>	<b>1,352,542</b>

Maine Land Trust Network website, through 2001

hunting, fishing, boating, camping and hiking are allowed to continue on much of this land, although restrictions do occur from place to place, particularly for motor vehicle and off-road vehicle access.

### **2. Private Forest Lands**

Private forest lands continue to dominate much of Maine, and in spite of changing ownership patterns, much of this area remains open for the traditional forest recreation opportunities noted above, and public access for traditional recreation is a standard component of most recent negotiated forest conservation easements.

Recreational use of most forest areas is managed by individual owners; however, North Maine Woods, Inc. (NMW) oversees recreation on 3.5 million acres of land in northern Maine and on 175,000 acres in the KI Jo-Mary Multiple Use Forest on behalf of a consortium of large and small woodland owners, including the State. In 1996, 44,000 acres on the Nahmakanta Unit of Public Reserved lands were removed from the NMW area, and in 1999, 700,000 acres

in the West Branch Penobscot area were added to the NMW management territory. Access to these lands and facilities is controlled through a system of gates, and users observe fees and regulations. Because of ongoing changes in land ownership, there needs to be continuing dialogue and coordination between the state and North Maine Woods, Inc. regarding public access to and recreational use of this area.

## ***D. Summary of Public and Private Recreation Facilities by Type and Provider***

### **1. Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities - PARKALL**

A description of the supply of outdoor recreation areas facilities relies heavily upon the Bureau of Parks and Lands inventory that is recorded in its PARKALL data base. For the current SCORP, facts about government areas and facilities were updated by providing towns and agencies with printouts of current data and asking them to update the information. Private facilities need to be updated in a similar fashion, and are somewhat dated for current purposes. As the only statewide record of the supply of recreation opportunities, PARKALL is a valuable tool. However, the time and resources needed to keep the database current are not often available, and more efficient ways of determining supply may need to be considered.

An inventory of outdoor recreation facilities accessible to people with disabilities is a project beyond the scope of PARKALL and SCORP. Access to public parks and recreation areas for people with physical disabilities is gradually improving as new facilities are constructed and existing facilities upgraded. For example, the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands has been implementing recommendations of the 1996 Maine State Parks and Historic Sites ADA/Accessibility Study with bond funds earmarked for access improvements to state facilities and other monies. One recent project provides an in-water wheelchair ramp at Range Pond State Park in Poland, within driving distance for day users from much of southern and central Maine. A Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant has also enabled the Bureau to provide accessibility information about the areas and facilities it manages on the Bureau's web site.

The State of Maine offers the online "Maine Guide to Accessible Recreation, Arts and Leisure," which lists public and private facilities and organizations that have tried to create physical and/or programmatic accessibility to people with a wide range of needs (deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, etc.) The Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services is coordinating an effort to expand accessibility information about private recreation, arts and leisure facilities and services by providing an on-line self assessment tool for providers and a searchable database for consumers that will provide information in a number of categories including outdoor recreation and travel and transportation.

Ultimately, accessibility information about both public and private facilities will be linked to provide comprehensive information.

## 2. Facility Summary

Table 13 summarizes of the supply of selected recreation facilities by jurisdiction: federal, state, municipal, school, private, and other. (Other includes facilities overseen by more than one jurisdiction.)

<b>Table 13</b>							
<b>Supply of Selected Maine Outdoor Recreation Facilities by Jurisdiction 2002</b>							
<b>Area/Facility</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Other<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Acres	179717	993419	115485	7908	157943	40	1454512
<b>Swimming</b>							
Saltwater Swim Beach (Ft)	1800	37400	92668	0	73718	10938	216524
Freshwater Swim Beach (Ft)	940	147770	29083	0	78707	0	256500
Outdoor Swim Pool (Sq Ft)	0	0	174218	8605	147404	0	330227
Outdoor Wading Pool (Sq Ft)	0	0	74496	1690	745	0	76931
Indoor Swim Pool (Sq Ft)	5251	16619	10468	33879	47991	0	114208
<b>Boating</b>							
Paved Boat Ramps	2	104	231	0	115	0	452
Gravel Boat Ramps	13	76	120	2	209	0	420
<b>Camping &amp; Picnicking</b>							
Tent Campsites	1195	1685	257	4	23459	0	26600
Vehicle Campsites	6	95	154	0	15283	0	15538
Camping Shelters	14	317	8	1	347	0	687
Picnic Tables	555	2811	1791	73	3205	0	8435
<b>Sports/Athletics</b>							
Baseball Fields	1	10	132	191	45	0	379
Little League Fields	3	4	148	116	49	0	320
Softball Fields	5	34	192	232	113	0	576
Football Fields	1	6	27	66	17	0	117
Field Hockey Fields	0	0	7	39	7	0	53
Soccer Fields	1	12	76	162	34	0	285
Multi Use Fields	1	12	105	178	67	0	363
Track (Ft)	6336	8356	21158	74292	12239	0	122381
Full Basketball Courts	1	11	173	191	33	0	409
Half Basketball Courts	3	18	65	188	85	0	359
Outdoor Tennis Courts	9	38	294	248	211	0	800
<b>Playgrounds</b>							
Playgrounds	2	34	293	522	231	0	1082
<b>Trails</b>							
Hiking Trails (Mi)	564	819	236	5	790	3	2417
Bicycle Trails (Mi)	43	240	194	3	102	0	582
Equestrian Trails (Mi)	43	220	139	3	407	0	812
Cross-Country Ski Trails (Mi)	113	212	330	56	910	0	1621
<sup>1</sup> Includes Private, Federal, and Municipal combinations. Source: Bureau of Parks & Lands, PARKALL							



## **Swimming**

Municipalities provide 43% of the ocean swim beach opportunities in Maine, followed closely by the private sector, which provides 34% of the supply. State-owned beaches represent only 17% of the saltwater swim frontage. By contrast, state-owned beaches on lakes and ponds comprise 58% of the supply of freshwater swimming opportunities, while town-owned freshwater beaches account for only 11% of the total. Private owners, with 31% of the freshwater beach frontage, are important providers of swimming opportunities on lakes and ponds, as well as the ocean.

Municipalities provide 61% of the total outdoor swimming and wading pool area, followed by the private sector, which offers a variety of outdoor pools at campgrounds and other lodging places. Private organizations, like YMCAs and Boys and Girls clubs, and schools supply over 70% of the indoor swimming opportunities in Maine.

## **Boating**

The database reports 873 public and privately owned boat access sites in Maine, of which 40% are administered by towns and cities, and 21% are administered by the state. Many of the local sites were developed with financial assistance from the state Boating Facility Fund. Significantly, another 37% of the sites are administered privately. Many of the private sites are provided by forest landowners, utilities, and private commercial campgrounds. A majority of the boating facilities provide access to inland waters. About 20% of the sites are coastal.

## **Camping and Picnicking**

Of the 26,600 campsites inventoried, 89% are provided by the private sector, primarily by private commercial campgrounds. Nearly 60% of the sites are suitable for some form of vehicle camping. The level of service available at "vehicle" sites is not indicated in the inventory, and a vehicle campsite can range from a site that is adequately sized for a small camper to a pull-through site equipped with water, sewer, electrical, cable, and digital hookups. State and federal areas combined, provide only 10% of the campsites in Maine, and the majority of these are for tents.

The inventory indicates that 38% of the picnic tables are provided by the private sector. Many of these are associated with forest campsites on private lands and are used for picnicking as well as for camping. One-third (33%) of the picnic tables are provided at state facilities, the majority at areas managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (state parks, public reserved and nonreserved lands, and boating facilities) and by the Maine Department of Transportation at highway rest areas. MaineDOT is discontinuing a number of these rest areas.

## Sports and Athletic Facilities

Municipalities and schools administer most sports and athletic facilities, which places them in the lead in providing recreation opportunities to youth on a year-round basis. This includes 80% of the playing fields, 80% of the basketball courts, 78% of the running tracks, and 68% of the tennis courts. Municipalities and schools also provide 75% of the playgrounds in Maine.

<b>Table 14</b> <b>Proportion of Selected Maine Recreation Facilities Provided by</b> <b>Municipalities and Schools</b>			
Facilities	Municipalities	Schools	Total
Playing Fields	33%	47%	80%
Basketball Courts	31%	49%	80%
Track	17%	61%	78%
Tennis Courts	37%	31%	68%

## Trails

The supply of land trails is estimated from a variety of sources of varying currency and reliability. A trail inventory is difficult to assemble and maintain because trails are often closed and relocated; there are often multiple owners that change over time; and some landowners and organizations are reluctant to provide information that might increase use of their lands.

Of the 2400 miles of reported hiking trails in Maine, state and private lands provide most of the opportunities: 34% of the hiking trails are on state lands and 31% are on private lands. State parks, including Baxter, and state Public Reserved and nonreserved lands are the primary locations. Federal lands provide 23% of the hiking trail miles principally at Acadia National Park, the White Mountain National Forest, and the Appalachian Trail. Some important hiking trails are being moved from private to public ownership as conservation and recreation land acquisitions proceed: the Saddleback Mountain section of the Appalachian Trail, trails in the Tumbledown Mountain area, and trails on Big Spencer Mountain and Mount Abraham. Acquisitions in more developed areas that will bring hiking opportunities closer to home include Mount Agamenticus in York County, Kennebec Highlands in Kennebec County, and the Bradbury-Pineland Corridor in Cumberland County.

Most bicycle trails in Maine are provided on state and municipal lands: 41% on state lands and 33% on municipal lands. This contrasts sharply with the situation in 1993 when the Carriage Roads at Acadia represented 55% of the recreational bicycle trail miles statewide. Over half of the current bicycle trail miles on state lands are located on abandoned rail beds – most acquired over the last decade, that are also used for ATVs and snowmobiles. In response to the popularity of mountain bicycling, a number of trails have opened for bikes at state parks, notably at Mount Blue, Camden Hills, Bradbury Mountain, and Androscoggin River Lands. Cyclists also now use the system of Shared Use

Roads on Maine's Public Reserved Lands (appx.167 mi.). More challenging mountain bike trails are provided at a number of private downhill ski areas in Maine.

In addition to the acquisition of rail corridors and providing bicycle opportunities on state recreation lands, the Maine Department of Transportation has promoted and supported bicycling as a transportation alternative through a number of initiatives that have effectively popularized the activity among residents and visitors. MaineDOT is also constructing off-road bicycle/pedestrian paths like the popular Androscoggin River Bikeway in Brunswick and Kennebec River Rail Trail in Augusta and Hallowell. The Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM), formed in the early 1990s, is an active constituency for cycling legislation and resources, and pursues initiatives in motorist education, bike safety education, and increasing and preserving access to public and private lands.

The private sector provides 50% of the horseback riding trails in Maine, primarily through stables and riding centers. State lands provide an estimated 27% of equestrian trail miles, with much of this located on abandoned rail beds that are also used for ATVs and snowmobiles. Equestrians, like cyclists now make use of the Shared Use Roads on Public Reserved Lands and designated trails at Mount Blue, Camden Hills, and Bradbury Mountain State Parks and Androscoggin River Lands. The primary contribution of federal lands to horseback riding trails is the 43 miles of Carriage Roads at Acadia National Park.

The data for cross country ski trails reflects a mix of groomed and ungroomed trails and trails that are designed and maintained primarily for other activities. As such, the information is limited in accurately characterizing cross-country ski opportunities in Maine. The data show that 56% of the cross-country trail miles are on private lands, and 33% are on state and municipal lands. Most groomed ski opportunities are available at private ski touring centers, and many of these are associated with downhill ski areas or golf courses. Groomed cross-country skiing is available at Aroostook, Mount Blue, and Bradbury mountain state parks and at Acadia National Park.

Of note in Northern Maine is the development of the private Maine Winter Sports Center, which operates four Nordic and alpine ski centers in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, and Mars Hill, including two world class biathlon training facilities. The center also operates Nordic ski trails in eight area towns with a stated goal of re-establishing skiing as a lifestyle in Maine and bringing related benefits to the area's economy and youth.

Maine snowmobile trail miles increased 22% from 1993 to 2003, from 10,497 miles to 12,843 miles. Over 50% of the snowmobile trails in Maine are located in Aroostook, Penobscot, Oxford, and Somerset counties, and most trails are located on private lands. Snowmobile trails in Maine are maintained largely by local snowmobile clubs, who are reimbursed for a portion of their expenditures

through maintenance and capital equipment grants from the state Snowmobile Trail Fund administered by the Off Road Vehicle Division of the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Snowmobiling contributes substantially to the Maine economy. According to *An Economic Evaluation of Snowmobiling in Maine: An Update for 1997-98*, (Reiling, University of Maine), prepared for the Maine Snowmobile Association, snowmobilers spent \$176.3 million on snowmobile-related expenses in 1997-98, and their total impact was estimated at \$261 million. The Maine Snowmobile Association includes 32,000 individual members, 2200 business members, and 282 clubs.

In 2001, Maine had less than 2000 miles of ATV trail; including 1573 miles of club or town administered trails and 404 miles of state-administered trails and shared use roads. Most locally maintained trails receive support from the ATV Management Fund administered by the Off Road Vehicle Division of the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Nearly 60% of the ATV trails are located in Aroostook, Washington, and Hancock counties, while most ATV registrations come from other counties. Maine ATV registrations increased 109% between 1993 and 2001, from 21,447 to 44,796 registrations.

As noted above, multiple use trails are now an important component of the supply of land trails in Maine. There are generally two types of multiple use trails: those that combine motorized and non-motorized uses and those that do not. Abandoned railroad corridors comprise a significant number of multiple use trails. The Department of Conservation has acquired several rail corridors since the early 1990s primarily for snowmobile and ATV use, with other uses (e.g., bicycling, horseback riding) permissible. These rail beds provide relatively long distance routes, appropriate for motorized riding, and are largely cleared and developed for use. How well motorized and non-motorized uses blend on these trails remains to be seen. While the number of users remains low, the combination of uses may succeed. Ongoing education in trail etiquette on multiple use trails will be essential to minimize conflicts. As the number of motorized and nonmotorized users increases, separation of uses will need to be considered. Abutting landowners in built-up areas along some of these trails have objected to noise, exhaust, and dust from motorized uses.

The Department of Transportation owns or is acquiring rail beds that will support bicycle and pedestrian trails along side potentially active rail lines. MaineDOT is also supporting development of bicycle and pedestrian trails on other routes, like the Eastern Trail on a long abandoned rail bed of mixed private and public ownership.

**Table 15**  
**Multi Use Rail Trails in Maine**

<b>Existing</b>			
Name	Uses	Mi	Ownership*
Aroostook Valley Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	16	MDOC
Bangor & Aroostook Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	54	MDOC
Aroostook Valley RR Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	9.6	MDOC
Aroostook River Pathway	Motor/Nonmotor	5.6	Municipal
Jay-Farmington Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	13.4	MDOC
St John Valley Heritage Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	17	Municipal/MDOC Easmt
B&A Houlton-Phair Jct	Motor/Nonmotor	44	Private/MDOC Lease
B&A Lagrange-Medford	Motor/Nonmotor	12	Private/MDOC Lease
B&A Washburn-Mapleton	Motor/Nonmotor	7	Private/MDOC Lease
Mountain Division Rail Trail	Snowmobile/Nonmotor	5	MaineDOT
Kennebec River Rail Trail	Nonmotor	2	MaineDOT
Total		185.6	
<b>Planned</b>			
Name	Uses	Mi	Ownership
Newport-Dover	Motor/Nonmotor	30	Private
Eastern Trail	Nonmotor	80	Private/Public
Mountain Division Rail Trail	Snowmobile/Nonmotor	45	MaineDOT/Private
Downeast Trail	Motor/Nonmotor	132	MaineDOT
Kennebec River Rail Trail	Nonmotor	4.9	MaineDOT
Total		291.9	
*Regardless of ownership, most trails are managed and maintained by local community and organization partners.			

Shared Use Roads were designated on a number of Public Reserved Lands in response to direction by the Maine Legislature to provide opportunities for ATVs on these lands. Some 167 miles of Shared Use Roads now exist on 12 units of Public Reserved Lands for ATV riding, bicycling, and horseback riding.

Water trails are not included in PARKALL, nor were water trails inventoried for this plan. However, state and local initiatives over the past decade warrant renewed attention to them. There is no shortage of water trail resources in Maine. *The AMC River Guide, Maine*, 2002 lists some 3,877 miles of canoeable rivers and streams. The 1982 *Maine Rivers Study* focused on river-related recreational boating dependent on flowing waters and the use of a "waterway trail." The *Rivers Study* recognized three categories recreational boating rivers:

- Canoe Touring Rivers: navigable in open canoes by novice to intermediate paddlers that contain predominantly flat water, quick water and Class I rapids.
- Whitewater Boating Rivers: navigable in canoes, kayaks, or rafts by intermediate to expert boaters that contain a significant number of Class II to Class V rapids.
- Backcountry Excursion Rivers: located in natural environments that are long enough to provide an extended river camping experience. These rivers may contain any combination of canoe touring and whitewater boating.

The study concluded that 1,750 miles of river represented “significant boating areas of high resource quality and high use priority.”

<b>Table 16</b> <b>Maine Rivers Study</b> <b>Significant River Boating Areas</b>	
River Category	Miles
Canoe Touring Rivers	500 (554)
Whitewater Boating Rivers	650 (657)
Backcountry Excursion Rivers	600 (574)
Total	1750

There are four recognized river trails in Maine for which recreational use is managed: the Saco River, managed by the Saco River Recreational Advisory Committee; the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor, managed by the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands; and the St Croix International Waterway, managed by the St Croix International Waterway Commission under contract with the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine. Management generally focuses on the type and amount of vehicle and boat access and related parking, and on picnicking, camping, and related facilities to serve river travelers

More recently, interest has turned toward historic river trails. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail stretches 740 miles from Old Forge, New York to Fort Kent, Maine over documented pre-mechanized travel routes including existing waterways and abandoned portage trails. The only completed section in Maine is a fifty-mile portion of the trail through the Rangeley Lakes Region. Efforts to popularize the route have met with mixed success as landowners and officials weigh the potential for increased use. A second historic route gaining recognition is the 128-mile the Eastern Maine Canoe Trail, which runs from the St Croix River in Vanceboro to the Penobscot River in Passadumkeag.

A number of watershed NGOs are also pursuing conservation and recreation along rivers, e.g., the Downeast Rivers Land Trust, the Georges River Land Trust, the Damariscotta River Association, and the Androscoggin Watershed Council. Annual “source to the sea” trips on the Penobscot and Androscoggin rivers have exposed people to river travel and values, and access sites are being developed or improved to create new “trails.”

In addition to river trails, the Maine Island Trail provides a 325-mile coastal water route from Portland to Machias. Designed principally for self-propelled watercraft and small sailboats and motorboats, the trail includes about 100 public and private islands, managed by the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) and volunteers, assisted with funding from the Bureau of Parks and Lands. The rapid growth of coastal kayaking is causing heavy use of some islands that threatens the continued availability of some privately owned islands.

## Golf

Although trend data do not point to golf as one of the most popular or fastest growing activities, golf had a 19% participation rate in Maine in 1991-92, and golf activity in Maine has been significant over the decade, particularly in facility investments. Prior to an update of course information for SCORP, PARKALL reported at total of 117 courses and 1,484 holes, with 92% of the holes provided at private courses and 7 % at municipal facilities. More recent information indicates a net gain of 21 courses and 315 new holes in recent years, almost exclusively in the private sector. Maine is also seeing more professional design in its courses and more multiple course facilities, e.g., 27 and 36 holes.

<b>Table 17</b>		
<b>Recent Golf Course Changes in Maine</b>		
	Courses	Holes
New	28	378
Closed	7	63
Net Change	+21	+315

## Downhill Skiing

Maine downhill ski areas range from a handful of surviving small community hills with rope tows or t-bars that operate occasionally to two of the region's largest ski resorts, Sunday River and Sugarloaf USA, which joined a number of resorts in the western US in the 1990s as part of the of the consolidated American Ski Company.

Maine has 17 operating downhill ski areas open to the public that can be characterized as small, medium, and large according to the number of trails and lifts. Sunday River and Sugarloaf USA each have over 125 trails and 15 or more lifts. Medium size areas include Mt Abram, Saddleback, Shawnee Peak, and Big Squaw Mountain, which have 30-45 trails and 4-5 lifts each. The remaining 11 ski areas have 1-3 lifts and 20 or fewer trails. Most ski areas now have some level of snowmaking and designated snowboard areas. The Ski Maine Association reported 1,296,910 skier/snowboarder days in the 2002/03 season, slightly above the five year average of 1,262,498 days. ("Skier/snowboarder days" = the number of visits made to ski areas by skiers and snowboarders.)